Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 669

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CY, TU

SUBJ: SOUTHERN TURK CYPRIOTS, A DIMINISHING FACTOR?

- 1. IN RECENT WEEKS TURK AND CYPRIOT PROPAGANDA MACHINES HAVE MADE FATE OF SOUTHERN TURK CYPRIOTS CENTRAL ISSUE DETERMING WHETHER OR NOT THERE WILL BE A THIRD ROUND OF MILITARY ACTIVITY. RECENT EMBOFF TRIP THROUGH SOUTHERN HALF OF ISLAND SUGGESTS THIS PROBLEM EXAGGERATED.
- 2. THERE NOT FEWER THAN 1,000 TURK CYPRIOTS REMAINING IN LARNACA DISTRICT. VAST MAJORITY OF RESIDENTS HAVE SEEPED NORTH THROUGH DHEKELIA SBA OR BEEN INVOLVED IN ONE OF HUMANITARIAN EXCHANGES. REMAINING TURK CYPRIOTS ARE LARGELY ELDERLY AND THUS ELIGIBLE FOR NORTHERN TRANSFER UNDER DENKTASH/CLERIDES FORMULA. CONFIDENTIAL

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MAINING IN HIS DISTRICT, EXCLUDING THOSE ON EPISKOPI SBA.

MAJORITY ARE WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHOSE
HUSBANDS AND FATHERS OPTED FOR
NORTHERN RELEASE FROM PRISON CAMP. ALMOST ALL LOCATED IN LIMASSOL
CITY. TOUR OF TOWN'S TURKISH QUARTER INDICATES MOST OF REMAINING
TURK CYPRIOTS PLANNING NORTHERN TREK: CARD TABLES SET UP OUTSIDE VIRTUALLY ALL HOMES WITH PEOPLE SELLING POSSESSIONS TO EAGER
GREEK BARGAIN HUNTERS. DISTRICT OFFICER SAID GOVERNMENT NOW TAKING
STEPS COUNTER NORTHERN MIGRATION BUT QUESTIONABLE HOW EFFECTIVE
THESE ARE IN PRACTICE. DURING RECENT TWO-DAY VISIT, FEW ROAD BLOCKS
OBSERVED.

3. LIMASSOL DISTRICT OFFICER STATES THERE 4,200 TURK CYPRIOTS RE-

4. LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF SOUTHERN TURK CYPRIOTS IS ON EPISKOPI SBA, WHERE BRITISH HAVE COUNTED 8,500 REFUGEES IN LATEST CUFSUS. WITH ONSET WINTER RAINS, THESE PEOPLE NOT LIVING IN DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS. CAMP RESEMBLES ONE OF POORER PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CENTERS. UNFORTUNATELY, INHABITANTS UNABLE LEAVE. THEIR VILLAGES HAVE BEEN TOTALLY LOOTED, WITH PLUMBING FIXTURES RIPPED OFF WALLS AND DOORS, WINDOWS STOLEN IN MANNER REMINISCENT OF SACK OF OMORPHITA. MOST COMMUNITY BUILDINGS, SCHOOLS, ETC. BURNED. MAJOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO REHABILITATE VILLAGES FOR REFUGEE RETURN AND, EVEN THEN, IT DOUBTFUL INHABITANTS WOULD AGREE GO BACK. VIRTUALLY ALL INTEND GO NORTH AND ARE AWAITING SOME SORT OF AGREEMENT AND/OR TURKISH ACTION WHICH WILL PERMIT THIS

5. PAPHOS DISTRICT OFFICER CLAIMS THERE STILL 10,000 TURK CYPRIOTS
IN DISTRICT (DOWN FROM 17,000 PRE-WAR). THIS DOUBTFUL. ONLY
200 TO 300 WOMEN AND CHILDREN REMAIN IN PAPHOS
TOWN AND D.O.'S FIGURES FOR
VILLAGES MOSTLY GUESSWORK. VILLAGES WE VISITED LARGELY DESERTED.
D.O.'S ESTIMATE PRIMARILY BASED ON FACT THAT NUMBER (HE SAID
SEVEN) ARMED TURKISH VILLAGES NEVER
SURRENDERED TO NATIONAL GUARD AND HE
ASSUMES POPULATIONS INTACT. EVEN IF THIS TRUE, 10,000 FIGURE
WOULD APPEAR HIGH: VILLAGES CONCERNED
ARE SMALL AND ISOLATED, WITH SEVERAL
IN PROCESS BEING EVACUATED ON HUMANITARIAN
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BASIS. DURING CURRENT WEEK,
APPROXIMATELY 1,000 INDIVIDUALS DUE GO NORTH AS RESULT DENKTASH/
CLERIDES NEGOTIATIONS.

6. AS AMUSING ASIDE, D.O. NOTED THAT 15 FAMILLIES
IN PHINIKAS VILLAGE HAVE BEEN ORDERED BY TURKISH LEADERSHIP
TO REMAIN IN PLACE AND REFUSE TRANSFER. VILLAGE LOCATED ON SITE PROPOSED WORLD BANK FINANCED IRRIGATION DAM AMD GREEK OFFICIALS

EAGER RELOCATE INHABITANTS EITHER IN PAPHOS
OR IN TURKISH ZONE. GOVERNMENT AFRAID FORCE RELOCATION LEST THIS PROVIDE PRETEXT FOR
TURKISH MILITARY ACTION. THIS FEAR WIDESPREAD
IN PAPHOS AND IT CLEAR OFFICIALS MAKING LITTLE EFFORT IMPEDE
NORTHERN FLOW. WHILE NO ONE WILLING STATE IT EXPLICITLY, IT
OBVIOUS OFFICIALS WOULD BE MORE THAN
HAPPY TO HAVE ALL TURKISH RESIDENTS IN
DISTRICT MOVE NORTH.

7. CONCLUSION: TURKISH MINORITY IN SOUTH BEING DRAWN DOWN AT RELATIVELY RAPID RATE. ASSUMING THIS CONTINUES FOLLOWING MAKARIOS' RETURN, NEAR TOTAL POPULATION EXCHANGE SHOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN COUPLE OF MONTHS. GREEK FEAR OF POSSIBLE TURKISH ACTION HAS RESULTED IN RELATIVELY GOOD TREATMENT FOR SOUTHERN TURK CYPRIOTS AWAITING TRANSFER. WITH EXCEPTION THOSE LOCATED ON SBA, TURKS IN SOUTH FAIRING FAR BETTER THAN GREEKS LOCATED IN TURKISH ZONE OF OCCUPATION. CRAWFORD

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